

additional policy statement that signs and labels used by the City of Madison should reflect the intent of this ordinance, unless to change the sign or label would violate state or Federal law or ADAAG Guidelines. (For example: signs indicating "Handicapped Loading Zones" should be changed to "Loading zones for persons with disabilities. Discounted fares with labels like "handicapped" or "disabled" should be changed to "persons with disabilities.")

A motion was made by Monahan, seconded by Erlanger, to Refer For Attorney Review to the Attorney's Office/Approval Group to do three things: (1) include the language from the Staff report of Jan. 23*, regarding changing signs and labels in the Drafter's analysis as a policy statement, (2) make consistent in all cases, but particularly items #32 and #34, replacing the words "persons with a serious mental illness" with the words "individuals with emotional disabilities" and (3) look for instances in the ordinances for the word "wheelchair(s)" and in a draft ordinance (not a substitute) replace the word "wheelchair" with "impairment related mobility device(s)" so the CPD can see what that would look like. The motion passed by acclamation.

b. Proposed Ordinance for DCR: Chair, Michael Howe
Staff Summary Report: Angela Bennett

02556

SUBSTITUTE - Adopting and confirming amendments to the Madison General Ordinances as set forth in attached Exhibit X pursuant to Sec. 66.0103, Wis. Stats.

The Chair reported that there was no revised draft ordinance referred to the Commission.

A motion was made by Conroy, seconded by Erlanger to Refer this Item to next month's agenda. The motion passed by acclamation.

14. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Accessibility of City Polling Places - City of Madison Clerk, S. Christensen; Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy [named changed on Monday to Disability Rights of Wisconsin (DRW)], Alicia Sidman presenting:

The City Clerk, Ms. Christensen did not attend.

Ms. Sidman reported the following to the Commission:

DRW receives federal funding from the Help America Vote Act to assure that people with disabilities have equal participation in the electoral process. Ms. Sidman is a voting rights advocate, who does other things at DRW besides assess accessibility of polling places, such as civil rights issues, and housing access issues.

DRW used part of the federal funding to take the same survey that the elections board used, but asked volunteers with disabilities to survey the polling places throughout the state, to give a different viewpoint about accessibility of polling places, and to give the cities additional information about polling places. The Madison survey covered 37 polling places, 70% had accessibility problems. Most of the problems were low cost, easily fixed problems (such as mats being loose, door heavy, no automatic openers, instructions not displayed in large print, signage for parking, defining the inside and outside accessible routes was not available, accessible routes with doors locked and adequate parking was not available or needed restriping, added parking for election day, nearer to the door, handrails added to the ramp.) Ms. Sidman submitted a report on the

data collected with the following comments about the data: (1) untrained volunteers filled out the surveys, so the data may not be accurate (2) the data gives the city a guide of something more to look at when assessing accessibility of polling places, (3) she met with the City clerk and CPD staff to review the report, and some of the accessibility problems may have already been corrected, or are on their way to being corrected and (4) the city clerk stated that she would have her poll workers take another look at the sites mentioned in the DRW survey as having accessibility problems that the City did not previously observe and then get back with Ms. Sidman regarding her findings. (5) Volunteers used the survey in the Appendix attached to her report. The State Elections Board initially used this survey, but later modified it. 43% of the polling places had more challenging problems, like no available accessible parking, no ramps, and improperly cut curb cuts. In some cases the City of Madison may move the polling site.

DRW plans to do the survey again, to give feedback to the City regarding the continued existence of accessibility problems. Commission members asked for the specific location of some of the problematic polling places, and whether the survey documented the lack of pedestrian access to the polling place. Ms. Sidman stated that she did not receive a specific complaint regarding lack of pedestrian access at polling places. She did have a number to call regarding access barriers (1-800-928-8778, TTY 1-888-758-6049, Madison #267-0214 disabilityrights.wi.org), but had not received any calls from Madison. Commission members asked whether DRW had informed the appropriate city departments regarding the accessibility problems, specifically mentioning the City Parking Utility, Mr. Bill Knobloch, or the City Engineering regarding curb cuts and sidewalks, and Ms. Sidman stated that she would work with staff to present the information to City Departments. A commission member observed, and Ms. Sidman agreed, that the data may not be a fair or accurate representation of access barriers because two different surveyors may catch different barriers, and not all sites had more than one volunteer survey.

Mr. Erlanger left the meeting at 5:50.

A Commission member asked about representation from the State Elections Board and staff responded that it was her understanding that State Elections Board representative would be coming in April when the accessible voting machine was available. Staff reported that the Automark machine leaves a paper trail and is reportedly of high quality.

Present: Ald. Paul E. Skidmore, Mary P. Conroy, Robert P. Monahan, Michael W. T. Howe, Randy G. Black, Malika S. Monger, Michael C. O'Connor and Gregory B. Banks

Absent: Lynn A. Peterson

Excused: Nancy R. Kathman, Jeff C. Erlanger and Alice J. Fike

15. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no items for a future agenda.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:05.

A motion was made by Conroy, seconded by Black, to Adjourn. The motion passed by acclamation.